(c) what is the total cost involved and by when the new fleet will be operational;

(d) the details of the total aircraft that are in operation in Air India;

(e) whether Government have studied the profits of U.S. operations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) A final view is yet to be taken by Air India on the fleet expansion plan.

(d) There are 28 aircrafts in operation in Air India which include 6 B747-400, 2 B747-300, 4 B747-200, 2 A300-B4 and 14 A310-300.

(e) and (f) Air India has earned a cash profit of Rs. 243.14 crores, Rs. 253.21 crores and Rs. 279.86 crores in the years 2001-02, 2000-01 and 1999-2000 respectively in respect of their US operations.

Hijacking bid

616. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got the reports from the Mauritius Government about the recent hijacking bid by an Indian;

(b) whether it is a fact that the crew of the Air Mauritius flight overacted and termed the whole incident as a hijacking bid; and

(c) if so, the action taken to sort the issue with the Mauritian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.